

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 COLOMB 00272 211138Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02
COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /081 W
-----211146Z 126424 /15

R 211044Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6585
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS COLOMBO 0272

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: PINT, CE
SUBJECT: EFFECT OF EARLY INDIAN ELECTIONS ON SRI LANKAN PROSPECTS

1. SRI LANKAN PRESS HAS REPORTED MRS. GANDHI'S
SOMEWHAT ABRUPT DECISION TO HOLD PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
AND SUBSEQUENT LIFTING OF PRESS CENSORSHIP IN MARCH IN
STRAIGHTFORWARD FASHION, WITH LITTLE OR NO EDITORIAL COMMENT.
PRIVATELY, PEOPLE ARE SAYING THIS VIRTUALLY NAILS DOWN THE
PROSPECT THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN SRI LANKA WITHIN THE
REQUIRED TIME FRAME THIS YEAR, I.E., NOT LATER THAN
SEPTEMBER 22. IN THIS CONNECTION, AMBASSADOR FOUND OPPOSITION
LEADER J.R. JAYAWARDENE IN MOST EXPANSIVE MOOD AT RECENT
SOCIAL FUNCTION, RADIATING CONFIDENCE NOT ONLY OVER FACT
ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD BUT OVER EXCELLENT PROSPECTS FOR HIS
PARTY.

2. DEPUTY SPEAKER CADER TOLD EMBOFF THAT SLFP ELECTORAL
LISTS ARE CIRCULATING IN MORE OR LESS FINAL FORM; HE
THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE KNOWN TO PUBLIC WITHIN ANOTHER TEN
DAYS OR SO. HE DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON WHETHER ERRING
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FOUR SLFP MPS (COLOMBO 0225) WILL BE RENOMINATED FROM
THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCIES. OPPOSITION UNP CANDIDATES
ARE MOSTLY KNOWN ALREADY; A PARTY MANIFESTO IS DUE
SHORTLY.

3. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, EMBASSY SHARES PREVAILING
VIEW THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD, BUT DESPITE THE INDIAN

DECISION, THE TIMING OF ELECTIONS HERE IS BY NO MEANS
YET CLEAR. MEANWHILE PRESS CENSORSHIP RESULTING FROM RECENT LABOR
TROUBLES REMAINS IN EFFECT HERE.
REED

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CENSORSHIP, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770022-1118
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770131/aaaabart.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, CE, IN, (GANDHI, INDIRA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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